

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A recliner mechanism comprising:

a first fitting part including a first toething tooth;

a latching element including a second toething tooth that is engageable with the first toething tooth;

a clamping element engageable with the latching element, the clamping element including a third toething tooth; and

a toothed element including a fourth toething tooth and a spring, the fourth toething tooth being engageable with the third toething tooth, the spring being encircled by and at least partially received within the toothed element,

wherein the spring is configured to act on the toothed element and indirectly on the clamping element via the third toething tooth and the fourth toething tooth to hold the latching element in engagement with the first fitting part.

18. (Previously Presented) The recliner mechanism of Claim 17 wherein the first fitting part, the latching element, the clamping element and the toothed element are pivotable relative to each other about respective pivot axes, the respective pivot axes being arranged parallel to one another.

19. (Previously Presented) The recliner mechanism of Claim 18 wherein the first fitting part, the latching element, the clamping element and the toothed element each have a fastening opening arranged concentrically about the respective pivot axes.

20. (Previously Presented) The recliner mechanism of Claim 17 wherein the toothed element comprises an outer ring and an inner ring, the spring being arranged concentrically with and between the outer ring and the inner ring.

21. (Previously Presented) The recliner mechanism of Claim 17 wherein the clamping element includes a first fastening opening and the toothed element includes a second fastening opening, the first fastening opening and the second fastening opening each being configured to receive a transmission rod to accommodate different seating arrangements.

22. (Currently Amended) The recliner mechanism of Claim 21 wherein a respective fine toothing tooth is provided around an inner periphery of the first fastening opening and the second fastening opening.

23. (Previously Presented) The recliner mechanism of Claim 21 further comprising a molded part configured to be inserted into the first fastening opening, the mold part having a profiled inner contour configured to receive a transmission rod.

24. (Previously Presented) The recliner mechanism of Claim 17 further comprising a second fitting part, wherein the latching element, the clamping element and the toothed element are fastened to the second fitting part.

25. (Previously Presented) The recliner mechanism of Claim 17 wherein the spring comprises a torsion spring.

26. (Previously Presented) The recliner mechanism of Claim 17 wherein the spring comprises a leg spring.

27. (Previously Presented) The recliner mechanism of Claim 17 wherein the spring comprises a flat spiral spring.

28. (Previously Presented) The recliner mechanism of Claim 17 wherein the clamping element further includes a control contour for interacting with a corresponding control contour of the latching element.

29. (Currently Amended) The recliner mechanism of Claim 17 wherein the toothing tooth of the clamping element and the mating toothing tooth of the toothed element are each an external toothing tooth segment.

30. (Currently Amended) A recliner mechanism comprising:
a first fitting part including a first toothing tooth;
a latching element including a second toothing tooth that is engageable with the first toothing tooth;
a clamping element engageable with the latching element, the clamping element including a third toothing tooth and a first fastening opening;
a toothed element including a fourth toothing tooth and a second fastening opening, the fourth toothing tooth being engageable with the third toothing tooth, and
a spring configured to act on the toothed element to hold the latching element in engagement with the first fitting part,
wherein the first fastening opening and the second fastening opening are each configured to receive a transmission rod to accommodate different seating arrangements.

31. (Currently Amended) The recliner mechanism of Claim 30 A recliner mechanism comprising:
a first fitting part including a first tooth;
a latching element including a second tooth that is engageable with the first tooth;
a clamping element engageable with the latching element, the clamping element including a third tooth and a first fastening opening;
a toothed element including a fourth tooth and a second fastening opening, the fourth tooth being engageable with the third tooth, and

a spring configured to act on the toothed element to hold the latching element in engagement with the first fitting part,

wherein the first fastening opening and the second fastening opening are each configured to receive a transmission rod to accommodate different seating arrangements, and wherein a respective fine toothing tooth is provided around an inner periphery of the first fastening opening and the second fastening opening.

32. (Currently Amended) The recliner mechanism of Claim 30 further comprising A recliner mechanism comprising:

a first fitting part including a first tooth;

a latching element including a second tooth that is engageable with the first tooth;

a clamping element engageable with the latching element, the clamping element including a third tooth and a first fastening opening;

a toothed element including a fourth tooth and a second fastening opening, the fourth tooth being engageable with the third tooth;

a spring configured to act on the toothed element to hold the latching element in engagement with the first fitting part; and

a molded part configured to be inserted into the first fastening opening, the mold part having a profiled inner contour configured to receive [[the]] a transmission rod,

wherein the first fastening opening and the second fastening opening are each configured to receive the transmission rod to accommodate different seating arrangements.

33. (Previously Presented) The recliner mechanism of Claim 30 wherein the spring is encircled by the toothed element.

34. (Currently Amended) The recliner mechanism of Claim 33 wherein the spring is configured to act directly on the toothed element and indirectly on the clamping element via the third toothing tooth and the fourth toothing tooth to hold the latching element in engagement with the first fitting part.

35. (Previously Presented) The recliner mechanism of Claim 30 wherein the toothed element comprises an outer ring and an inner ring, the spring being arranged concentrically with and between the outer ring and the inner ring.

36. (Previously Presented) The recliner mechanism of Claim 30 wherein the first fitting part, the latching element, the clamping element and the toothed element are coupled to a second fitting part and pivotable relative to each other about respective pivot axes, the respective pivot axes being arranged parallel to one another.